

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 SAM-01 SAB-01 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05

AID-05 ACDA-05 ACDE-00 EA-06 OC-05 CCO-00 SCCT-01

/104 W

----- 066999

O 261240Z MAY 75 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4499

DIA WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

CIA WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USINT BAGHDAD UNN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEHRIN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USCINCEUR

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 6678

STUTTGART FOR ELG

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EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, LE, PLO

SUBJECT: SITUATION REPORT, LEBANON, AS OF NOON, MAY 26

REF: BEIRUT 6668

1. BEIRUT GREETED DAWN MAY 26 WITH MANY CITIZENS IN STATE OF TRAUMA FOLLOWING NIGHT WHICH SAW HEAVIEST AND MOST WIDESPREAD FIRING OF CURRENT CRISIS. SNIPING, WHICH CONTINUED THROUGHOUT MAY 25, BEGAN IN EARNEST AT 1520Z LAST EVENING AS ROCKETS, MORTARS AND BOMB EXPLOSIONS ADDED PUNCTUATION TO BACKDROP OF AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE. THROUGHOUT YESTERDAY AND UNTIL APPROXIMATELY 0300Z THIS MORNING, CITIZENS, MANY OF WHOM HAVE NOT SLEPT FOR SEVERAL NIGHTS, WERE SUBJECTED TO HIGHEST LEVEL OF SHOOTING SINCE PRESENT CRISIS BEGAN LAST TUESDAY.

2. MININTERIOR BRIG. NASRALLAH CONCLUDED A NEW CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT (FIFTH IN AS MANY DAYS) IN HIS OFFICE AT ABOUT 1900Z IN PRESENCE OF SYRIAN FOMIN KHADDAM, VARIOUS FEDAYEEN REPS AND GOL SECURITY OFFICIALS. STAND-DOWN, HOWEVER, LID NOT TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY AND NIGHT MAY 25-26 WAS TUMULTOUS. CEASEFIRE REPORTEDLY INCLUDED COMMITMENT BY ALL SIDES TO REMOVE BARRICADES AND THEIR ARMED PARTISANS, BUT THIS CLEARLY HAS NOT RPT NOT YET OCCURRED. ARMED MEN REMAIN IN STREETS IN MOST PARTS OF CITY AND RESIDENTS OF MANY NEIGHBORHOODS REPORT THEMSELVES UNABLE TO MOVE ABOUT BEIRUT. WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT PHALANGE MILITIAMEN ARE SEALING OFF ASHRAFIYYEH, AN AREA WHICH ALONG WITH AIN RUMANNEH/FURN ASH SHUBAK WAS ON RECEIVING END OF RANDOM ROCKET BARRAGES. DURING HIGH POINT OF THIS MORNING'S (0100Z TO 0300Z) CRESCENDO, FIRING, EXPLOSIONS, ETC. SWEEPED THROUGH MARA, VERDUN, BLISS AREAS AS WELL AS DAR AL FATWA AND TRADITIONAL MUSLIM NEIGHBORHOODS. WE ARE INFORMED THAT DURING THIS PERIOD ARMED FEDAYEEN AND POSSIBLY PHALANGISTS AS WELL CIRCULATED FIRING MORE

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OR LESS INDISCRIMINATELY.

3. ALTHOUGH ARMED ELEMENTS REMAIN IN POSITIONS THROUGHOUT CITY, LEVEL OF FIRING HAS FALLEN OFF SIGNIFICANTLY SINCE DAYLIGHT TODAY. CITIZENRY, HOWEVER, IS STILL NOT RPT NOT ABLE TO MOVE FREELY. WE HAVE RECEIVED REPORTS FROM SEVERAL SECTIONS OF CITY THAT RESIDENTS UNABLE CIRCULATE AND HAVE

LEARNED THAT ARMED MEN IN CORNICHE MAZRA (AND
POSSIBLY OTHER SECTIONS)
AVE TURNED BACK
RESIDENTS SEEKING TO REACH THEIR PLACES OF BUSINESS
ON GROUNDS THAT GENERAL STRIKE PROCLAIMED BY

LEFTIST GROUPS (BEIRUT 6497) REMAINS IN EFFECT.
WE UNDERSTAND GENERAL STRIKE IS STILL BEING OBSERVED
IN BOTH TRIPOLI AND SIDON, BUT INFORMATION ON DEVELOP-
MENTS IN OTHER PARTS OF LEBANON REMAINS SKETCHY.
LIKEWISE, THERE IS NO RPT NO UP-TO-DATE WORD ON
CURRENT PROGRESS AND/OR EFFECTIVENESS OF JOINT
GOL/PLO PATROLS.

4. TEBANESE ARMY SOURCES INFORM US THAT SYRIAN GOVT
HAS CARRIED OUT MASSIVE AMMUNITION RESUPPLY EFFORT
TO FEDAYEEN AND POSSIBLE THEIR LEBANESE ALLIES. SEEMS
LIKELY THAT THESE FRESH SUPPLIES, INCLUDING KATYUSKA
ROCKETS, MADE THEIR APPEARANCE IN OVERNIGHT FOREWORKS
DISPLAYSPM AT MOMENT, WE CONSIDER IT LIKELY THAT
OPPOSITION (PALESTINIANS, MUSLIMS, "PROGRESSIVES",
ETC.) WILL NOT RPT NOT INITIATE RESUMPTION OF CLASHES
TODAY BECAUSE THEY SENSE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS MAY
BE WORKING IN THEIR FAVOR (SEPTTEL-NOTAL). GIVEN
AMORPHOUS NATURE OF THEIR "FOLLOWING", HOWEVER,
OPPORTUNITIES REMAIN RIFE FOR PROVOCATIONS BY THEIR
UNDISCIPLINED HANGERS-ON, AS WELL AS FROM PHALANGIST
HOTHEADS.

5. AT THIS TIME, ALL AMCITS SAFE TO BEST OUR
KNOWLEDGE. WE ARE CONTINUING ADVISE AMCIT
INQUIRERS TO REMAIN HOME AND UNDERSTAND BRITISH,
CANADIANS, AUSTRALIANS ARE IN GENERAL DOING LIKEWISE.
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THERE
HAS BEEN AT LEAST ONE NEW CASE OF FEDAYEEN
ABDUCTION OF FOREIGN RESIDENT: HEADMASTER OF
GERMAN SCHOOL WAS SEIZED AT HIS HOME ON MAY 26
BY FEDAYEEO ELEMENTS WHO TOOK HIM TO SABRA/SHATILA
REFUGEE CAMP AND ACCUSED HIM OF BEING ISRAELI AGENT.
GERMAN WAS RELEASED SOMEHOURS LATER LITTLE WTRSE FOR WEAR.
WECURRENTLY ESTIMATE TOTAL KILLED SINCE MAY 20
AT MINIMUM OF 80 RPT 80, WHILE WOUNDED CONSIDERABLY
MORE.

6. AIRPORT CALM AND OPERATING AS USUAL MORNING
MAY 26, BUT ACCESS WAS HAZARDOUS AT SEVERAL POINTS
DURING LAST NIGHT.
GODLEY

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NNN

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